

The City of Clayton
Community Equity Commission
Virtual Zoom Meeting
August 13, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Yvonne Tisdel, Laura Horwitz (Chair), Chris Schmiz, Ben Uchitelle, Stuart Berkowitz, Frances Pires, Nikki Bisel, Dr. Sean Doherty (ex officio), Rev. Laurie Anzilotti (ex officio), JoAnna Schooler (ex officio), Ellen Gale (ex officio), and Darlene Reed (ex officio).

Additional: Alderwoman Boulton, Alderwoman Buse, City Manager Gipson, and Assistant to the City Manager Andrea Muskopf.

Minutes

Ben Uchitelle moved to approve the July 9, 2020 minutes. Yvonne Tisdel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Reflection: John Robert Lewis and Cordy Tindell Vivian

Rev. Laurie Anzilotti led Commission in a reflection on the lives of John Robert Lewis and Cordy Tindell Vivian.

Old Business

July 9, 2020 Public Comments Submitted to the Record

Publicizing Public Meetings

City Manager Gipson explained that the Communications Subcommittee will be working on an Engagement Plan, which will include recommendations as to how the City can improve publicizing public meetings.

Dispatch Software Upgrades

City Manager Gipson shared that East Central Dispatch Center (ECDC), which is the cooperative between seven cities that the City utilizes for dispatching, is currently going through a Request For Proposals (RFP) process to upgrade the computer-aided design (CAD) software for dispatching. This will allow the dispatchers to have access to a more modern tool.

Recommendation(s) Timeline

City Manager Gipson explained that there is not a timeline for recommendations from the Community Equity Commission (CEC) to the Board of Aldermen (BOA). The CEC can make recommendations to the BOA at any time.

Body-Worn Cameras

City Manager Gipson explained that the body-worn camera program is still in the testing phase and has been delayed by the pandemic. Staff will update the Commission as the program progresses.

Subcommittee Reports

Policing Subcommittee

The Policing Subcommittee will present their recommendations at the September meeting.

Communications Subcommittee

The Communications Subcommittee recommended that the City share upcoming meetings with links to the website on NextDoor and social media channels.

Public Comment

Kathleen Gund shared her reaction to the Suspicious Activity graphic, which was that it appeared post-9/11 and focused on how to report a person.

Karen Aroesty recommended that the Board of Aldermen and Police Department implement a policy around callers reporting suspicious activity and utilize the data from the Policing Subcommittee to create a campaign such as lawn signs, poster campaign that businesses could put up, and utilizing the Clayton Chamber and faith community as allies (action steps: policies, practices, and personal biases).

Andrea Muskopf read Lynn Courter's comment submitted to the record via email (attached).

Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force

Nikki Bisel will serve on the Task Force.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10 at 5:30 pm.

Adjourn

Ben Uchitelle moved to adjourn the meeting. Yvonne Tisdell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Andrea Muskopf

From: Lynn Courter <lynni316@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Andrea Muskopf
Subject: Public Comment for Community Equity Commission

[CAUTION – EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Andrea,

I have a public comment/question for the Community Equity Commission meeting tomorrow. I will do my best to be present at the meeting, but may not be able to be there. Here is my comment:

“At the last meeting we received data that was collected on suspicious calls and learned that resident calls to report a suspicious person are made about people of color at a significantly disproportionate rate in our area. An idea was brought forth about the need for community outreach and education in response to this finding. I think that this is an important idea to pursue if we truly want Clayton to be a welcoming community that celebrates diversity and values equity.

I would like to make a suggestion for consideration about that community outreach. I am wondering if it might be best to focus on allyship. Rather than discourage people from making these racially motivated calls to police about “suspicious persons,” we could encourage residents to be allies. We could provide suggestions and dialog prompts on how to have tough conversations with friends, family, and neighbors about this data and its implications. We could offer a community book study on antiracism literature. We could put out media citing the data and emphasizing the importance of being an ally in our community.”

I’ve never done this before, so what is the process? Will you just include this in the meeting? Do I need to be there for it to be discussed? Please let me know when you can.

Thanks so much!

~Lynn Courter